

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier moved in a sub-scanning direction;
an exposure device which scans, with an exposure light, the image carrier along a main scanning direction to form a latent image on the image carrier;
a developing unit which supplies a toner to the latent image to effect development;
a transfer unit which transfers a toner image to a sheet, and
a fixing device which fixes the transferred toner image to the sheet, wherein
the exposure device comprises:
 a housing;
 a light emitting section which emits a laser beam;
 a polygon mirror provided in the vicinity of a side in the housing, which includes a plurality of reflection planes along the main scanning direction to deflect the laser beam in the main scanning direction;
 a mirror provided in the vicinity of another side in the housing, which reflects the laser beam deflected by the polygon mirror at a predetermined angle to guide the laser beam outside the housing; and
 a projection provided on an outer surface of the housing between the polygon mirror and the mirror,
 wherein a central axis of the projection passes through an exposure light spot of the laser beam irradiated on the image carrier.

5.-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 4 further comprising:

a frame having a hole into which the projection is fitted, which supports the housing of the exposure device in such a manner that the housing can rotate about the projection.

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a correction lens which corrects variations in the tilts of the plurality of reflection planes.

10. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the correction lens comprises two fθ lenses.

11. (Previously Presented) An exposure apparatus comprising:

a housing;

a light emitting section which emits a laser beam;

a polygon mirror provided in the vicinity of a side in the housing, which includes a plurality of reflection planes along a main scanning direction to deflect the laser beam in the main scanning direction;

a mirror provided in the vicinity of another side in the housing, which reflects the laser beam deflected by the polygon mirror at a predetermined angle to guide the laser beam outside the housing; and

a projection provided on an outer surface of the housing between the polygon mirror and the mirror,

wherein a central axis of the projection passes through an exposure light spot of the laser beam which is reflected by the mirror.

12. (Previously Presented) The exposure apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising:

a correction lens which corrects variations in the tilts of the plurality of reflection planes.

13. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the housing is rotated about the projection.

14. (Previously Presented) The exposure apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the housing is rotated about the projection.

15. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

a shaping lens located between the light emitting section and the polygon mirror.

16. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 15, wherein at least the light emitting section and the shaping lens are formed in one unit.

17. (Previously Presented) The exposure apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a shaping lens located between the light emitting section and the polygon mirror.

18. (Previously Presented) The exposure apparatus according to claim 17, wherein at least the light emitting section and the shaping lens are formed in one unit.

19. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:
an image carrier moved in a sub-scanning direction;
an exposure means for scanning, with an exposure light, the image carrier along a main scanning direction to form a latent image on the image carrier;

a developing means for supplying a toner to the latent image to effect development;
a transfer means for transferring a toner image to a sheet, and
a fixing means for fixing the transferred toner image to the sheet, wherein
the exposure means comprises:

a housing;
a light emitting means for emitting a laser beam;
a deflection means, provided in the vicinity of a side in the housing, which includes a plurality of reflection planes along the main scanning direction, for deflecting the laser beam in the main scanning direction;

a reflecting means, provided in the vicinity of another side in the housing, for reflecting the laser beam deflected by the deflecting means at a predetermined angle to guide the laser beam outside the housing; and

a projection provided on an outer surface of the housing between the deflecting means and the reflecting means,

wherein a central axis of the projection passes through an exposure light spot of the laser beam irradiated on the image carrier.

20. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 19 further comprising:

a frame having a hole into which the projection is fitted, which supports the housing of the exposure means in such a manner that the housing can rotate about the projection.

21. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a correction lens which corrects variations in the tilts of the plurality of reflection planes.

22. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the correction lens comprises two fθ lenses.

23. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 19, wherein the housing is rotated about the projection.

24. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a shaping lens, located between the light emitting means and the deflecting means.

25. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 24, wherein at least the light emitting means and the shaping lens are formed in one unit.

26. (Previously Presented) An exposure apparatus comprising:

a housing;

a light emitting means for emitting a laser beam;

a deflecting means, provided in the vicinity of a side in the housing, which includes a plurality of reflection planes along a main scanning direction, for deflecting the laser beam in the main scanning direction;

a reflecting means, provided in the vicinity of another side in the housing, for reflecting the laser beam deflected by the deflecting means at a predetermined angle to guide the laser beam outside the housing; and

a projection provided on an outer surface of the housing between the deflecting means and the reflecting means,

wherein a central axis of the projection passes through an exposure light spot of the laser beam which is reflected by the reflecting means.

27. (Previously Presented) The exposure apparatus according to claim 26, further comprising:

a correction lens which corrects variations in the tilts of the plurality of reflection planes.

28. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the housing is rotated about the projection.